

EXHIBIT

15

Serial Number: 08/376,849

-2-

Art Unit: 3405

A. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

B. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Simmons.

C. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

D. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Simmons in view of Cunningham, Jr. et al..

Claims 3 and 4 define over the cited prior art only in the recitation of the drying device. The patent to Cunningham is cited disclosing in a cleaning apparatus, an arrangement of providing drying means as instantly claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to

Serial Number: 08/376,849

-3-

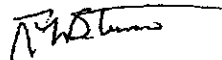
Art Unit: 3405

modify the apparatus of Simmons, to include a drying means as taught by Cunningham, for the purpose of removing the cleaning fluid.

E. Claims 5-20 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only and cannot depend from other multiple dependent claims. See M.P.E.P. § 608.01(n). Accordingly, claims 5-20 have not been further treated on the merits.

F. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Chiu and Richardson et al., note the cleaning means.

G. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F.L. Stinson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (1st week) and T-F (2nd week) from 8:30 AM to 5:00 pm. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7766. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.


Frankie L. Stinson
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 3405

B000323



PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 02894/284001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gebhard Braun
Serial No.: 08/376,849
Filed : January 23, 1995
Title : CLEANING DEVICE FOR THE SHAVING HEAD OF A DRY SHAVER

Art Unit: 3405
Examiner: Stinson

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE

In response to the Examiner's action mailed March 22, 1996, please amend the application, as follows.

In the specification:

Page 22, line 3, replace "65" with --75--.

In the claims:

1. (amended) A cleaning device [(5), with] comprising
a cradle structure adapted to receive [(7) receiving
the] a shaving head [(3)] of a shaving apparatus, [as well as]
[at least one] a cleaning fluid container, [(6), (61)]
and
a feed device [(23) adapted to be driven by a motor
(28)] for feeding [the] cleaning fluid to said cradle structure,
[characterized in that the] said cradle structure [(7) is] being
arranged above [the] a fluid level of the cleaning fluid in said
cleaning fluid container, that the cradle structure (7) is
adapted to be supplied with cleaning fluid from the cleaning
fluid container (6) for the duration of the cleaning operation of

Date of Deposit June 20, 1996
I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence
is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as
first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated
above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and
Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Robert A. L. Blum

B000327

the shaving head, and that the cradle structure (7) is connected with the cleaning fluid container (6), (61) through an overflow device (26) and/or at least one outlet port (27)].

48
CN
2. (amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that the device includes] further comprising an electric arrangement for temporarily operating the shaving head [(3)] of the shaving apparatus [(1) as well as] and the feed device [(23)].

3. (amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] further comprising a drying device [(16) is arranged in the device].

10
X. (amended) A device as claimed in claim 2, [characterized in that] further comprising a drying device, the drying device [(16) is] being associated with the cradle structure [(7)] and [is] adapted to be activated by the electric arrangement after the cleaning fluid has been drained from the cradle structure [(7)].

12
8. (amended) A device as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the drying device [is formed of] comprises an impeller [(16)] [adapted to be driven].

13. (amended) A device as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the drying device [is formed of an impeller [(16)] adapted to be driven and a heating means] further comprises a heater.

7. (amended) A device as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the cradle structure [(7)] is configured in the manner of] comprises a dish-shaped structure.

8. (amended) A device as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that at least] wherein the cradle structure [(7)] and/or the cleaning fluid container (6) are] is permanently open [towards the outside, that is,] to atmosphere.

9. (amended) A device as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 2, [characterized in that the] wherein a cross-sectional area [of cross-section] of the outlet port [(27)] in the cradle structure (7)] is dimensioned such that during the cleaning operation the amount of cleaning fluid drained through the outlet port [(27)] is smaller than the amount of cleaning fluid supplied to the cradle structure [(7)] through] by the feeding device [(23)].

10. (amended) A device as claimed in [one or several of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that]

further comprising a hose member [(20)] permeable to the cleaning fluid [is] provided between the overflow device [(26)] and the cleaning fluid container [(6)].

³
11. (amended) A device as claimed in claim [9] 1, [characterized in that] further comprising a collecting dish [(77)] [is provided] and a filter, said collecting dish being positioned underneath the cradle structure [(7)], said dish having] and including an outlet opening [(91)] connecting with [a] the filter [means (24)].

4P
12. (amended) A device as claimed in [any one of the claims 10 or] claim 11, [characterized in that the filter means is comprised of a connection means [(19)] to which the] further comprising a hose member [(20)] permeable to the cleaning fluid [is fitted] provided between the collecting dish and the filter.

claim 15
13. (amended) A device as claimed in [any one of the] ~~claims 10~~ [to] ~~or 12~~, [characterized in that] wherein the hose member [(20)] is immersed in the cleaning fluid [(40)] held in the cleaning fluid container [(6)].

9P
14. (amended) A device as claimed in [any one of the claims 9 to 13] claim 11, [characterized in that the connection means (19) is directly or indirectly] wherein the feed device includes a suction side and a delivery side, the outlet opening being connected to the suction side of the feed device [(23)],

[its delivery side being in communication with a] the filter being in communication with the delivery side of the feed device [means (24) through a conduit (25)].

15. (amended) A device as claimed in [any one of the claims 9 to 14] claim 1, [characterized in that the] further comprising a filter [means (24) is] connected to an inlet of the cradle structure [(7) by means of an outlet connection means (37)], and [that] an outlet port [(27)] provided in the cradle structure [(7) is] connected to the cleaning fluid container [(6)].

16. (amended) A device as claimed in [one or several of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that the shaving apparatus (1) is insertable into a supporting structure configured as a] further comprising a bracket [(10)] for insertion of the shaving apparatus therein, and [is mechanically and/or electrically interlockable by a switching means (9)] a switch for interlocking the shaving apparatus to the bracket.

¹⁰
17. (amended) A device as claimed in [one or several of the preceding claims] ¹¹²⁵claim 1, further comprising a switch spring, [characterized in that the switching means (9) for mechanically and/or electrically interlocking the shaving apparatus (1)] the switch [is] being movable against the force of [a] the spring from an ["Off" position or] unlockable position

into [at least one] a position interlocking the shaving apparatus [(1)].

²¹
28. (amended) A device as claimed in [one or several of the preceding claims] claim 20, [characterized in that] wherein said switch is configured such that the ["On"] interlocking position [for] electrically activates [activating] the shaving apparatus [(1) also serves for activation of] and the cleaning device [(5)].

²²
29. (amended) A device as claimed in [one or several of the preceding claims] claim 16, [characterized in that the switching means (9)] further comprising an electrical control circuit, wherein the switch is adapted to be connected to [an] the electrical control circuit [which activates] to activate the cleaning device for a predetermined [or programmable] period of time.

²³
30. (amended) A device as claimed in [one or several of the preceding claims] claim 22, [characterized in that,] further comprising a drying device, wherein the electrical control circuit, following cleaning of the shaving head, is configured to activate the drying device of the shaving apparatus [(1) is additionally activated] for a predetermined [or programmable] period of time.

21. (amended) A device as claimed in [one or several of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the electric control circuit [activatable by the switching means [(9)] is utilizable for] is configured to [the] control [of the various operating stages of] the cleaning device [(5)].

22. (amended) A device as claimed in [one or several of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein [the] an electric control circuit [activatable by the switching means (9) is adapted to be de-energized for the control of the cleaning and drying cycle, cancels the electrical and/or mechanical] is configured to cancel the interlock after cleaning of the shaving head [and/or terminates the charging cycle of the shaving apparatus (1)].

Please add the following new claims.

23. A device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an overflow device connecting the cradle structure with the cleaning fluid container.--

24. A device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an outlet port connecting the cradle structure with the cleaning fluid container.--

25. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cleaning fluid container is permanently open to atmosphere.--

--⁸25. A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a motor for driving the feed device.--

--²⁵27. A device as claimed in claim ²⁵25 wherein the electric control circuit is configured to supply the cradle structure with cleaning fluid from the cleaning fluid container for the duration of the cleaning operation of the shaving head.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. New claims 23-27 have been added. The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claims 1-20 were pending. Applicant wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention that english translations of claims 1-22 were filed with the application.

The Examiner has objected to claims 5-20 as being in improper form. The claims have been amended to overcome the objection and further treatment on the merits is requested. Claims 21 and 22 where not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Simmons, U.S. Patent No. 3,172,416.

Claim 1 relates to a cleaning device including a cradle structure adapted to receive a shaving head of a shaving apparatus, a cleaning fluid container, and a feed device for feeding cleaning fluid to the cradle structure. The cradle structure is arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning fluid in the cleaning fluid container.

As can be seen in Fig. 1 of Simmons, the upper section of casing 1 defined by walls 9 for receiving a razor head contains cleaning fluid as indicated by the add and full lines in the figure. Therefore, Simmons does not teach a structure adapted to receive a shaving head that is arranged above a fluid level of cleaning fluid in a cleaning fluid container, as claimed. Applicant submits that this novel arrangement permits the shaving head to remain in position in the cradle during drying rather than requiring removal of the shaving head for drying as taught by Simmons (see, for example, Simmons column 6, lines 49-52).

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Simmons in view of Cunningham, U.S. Patent No. 5,335,394. Applicant submits that the Cunningham reference does not overcome the deficiencies in the primary reference discussed above. Particularly, Cunningham teaches a cleaning arrangement in which eyeglasses to be cleaned are positioned such that they are immersed in a chamber containing cleaning fluid, and, subsequent to cleaning, requires removal of the eyeglasses from the cleaning fluid to dry the eyeglasses (see, for example, Fig. 2 and column 3, lines 45-48). Cunningham does not teach a cradle structure adapted to receive an object to be cleaned and to which cleaning fluid is fed arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning fluid in a cleaning fluid container, as claimed.

Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is requested. No new claim

fee is believed due as the application was original filed with payment for 28 claims.

Please charge any additional fees, or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 20, 1996

Philip Kirsch Reg. No. 38,524
Eric L. Prah
Reg. No. 32,590

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804

Telephone: 617/542-5070
Facsimile: 617/542-8906
184625.B11



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	G	ATTORNEY
087376-849	01/20/95	BRAUN		0203000401

WILLIS M ERTMAN
FISH & RICHARDSON
225 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON MA 02110-2804

34M2/0515

STINSON

ART. 34M2/0515 PAPER NUMBER

05/15/97

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

B000365

Serial Number: 08/376,849

-2-

Art Unit: 3405

A. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

B. Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15 and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over either Mekiney et al. or Hilliker. Re claim 1, the patent to Mekiney and Hilliker are cited disclosing a cleaning device comprising a cradle (12 and 6 respectively), a cleaning fluid container and a feed device that differs from the claim only in the recitation of the intended use, namely that of cleaning the head of a shaving apparatus. Nonetheless, the intended use is not deemed to structurally define over the device of either Mekiney or Hilliker. Re claim 7, Mekiney and Hilliker disclose the cradle dish-shaped as instantly claimed. Re claims 8 and 25, Mekiney and Hilliker disclose the open container. Re claim 9, Mekiney and Hilliker disclose the fluid supply and draining. Re claims 11 and 15, Mekiney discloses the filter and collector. Re claim 23, Hilliker and Mekiney

B000366

Serial Number: 08/376,849

-3-

Art Unit: 3405

disclose the overflow. Re claim 24, Hilliker and Mekiney disclose the outlet port. Re claim 26, Mekiney discloses the drive means. Re claim 27, Mekiney discloses the control circuit

D. Claims 2-6, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 16-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

E. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

F. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

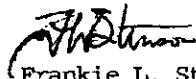
G. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In French'932, Piccione, Canon and Booth, note the cleaning means.

Serial Number: 08/376,849

-4-

Art Unit: 3405

H. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F.L.Stinson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(1st week) and T-F (2nd week) from 8:30 AM to 5:00 pm. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7766. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.



Frankie L. Stinson

Primary Examiner

Group Art Unit 3405

Office Action SummaryApplication No.
08/376,848

Applicant(s)

BRAUNExaminer
Frankie L. StinsonGroup Art Unit
3405☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amd't B, filed 3/10/97☒ This action is **FINAL**.☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.☒ Claim(s) 1, 7, 9-11, 15, and 23-27 is/are rejected.☒ Claim(s) 2-6, 8, 12-14, and 16-22 is/are objected to.☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.**Application Papers**☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been☐ received.☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).**Attachment(s)**☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

B000369

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

TO SEPAR. ... D TOP AND BOTTOM EDGES, SNAP-APART AND DISC

FORM PTO-882 (REV. 2-92)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		SERIAL NO. 876,844	GROUP/ART/UNIT 3405	ATTACHMENT TO PAPER NUMBER 15	
NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED				APPLICANT(S) BRAUN			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
A	412461	11/1889	CANON	134	201		
B	1782793	11/1930	PICCIONE	134	88		
C	3644212	6/1962	BOOTH	134	155		
D							
E							
F							
G							
H							
I							
J							
K							
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	PERTINENT SHTS. DWG. SPEC.
L	808932	2/1937	FRANCE	—	84	287	
M							
N							
O							
P							
Q							
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
R							
S							
T							
U							
EXAMINER [Signature]		DATE 5/6/97					

* A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this office action.
(See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, section 707.05 (a).)

B000370

71348 U.S. PTO
04/14/97

230-126167 JDS
Group Dorse
52097

PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 02894/284001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gebhard Braun Art Unit: 1307
Serial No.: 08/376,849 Examiner: Stinson
Filed : January 23, 1995
Title : CLEANING DEVICE FOR THE SHAVING HEAD OF A DRY SHAVER

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant submits the references listed on the attached form PTO 1449. Copies of the references were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 21, 1996, and therefore are not enclosed with this statement.

This statement is being filed after a first Office action on the merits, but before receipt of a final Office action or a Notice of Allowance. A check for \$230 in payment of the late submission fee of \$1.17(p) is enclosed. Please apply any additional charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 8, 1997

Eric L. Prahl Reg. No. 32,590
Eric L. Prahl
Reg. No. 32,590

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804

Telephone: 617/542-5070
Facsimile: 617/542-8906
236274.B11

Date of Deposit April 8, 1997
I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Rita A. L. Bl

1000371



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
 Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/376,849	01/23/95	BRAUN	02894/284001

WILLIS M ERTMAN
 FISH & RICHARDSON
 225 FRANKLIN STREET
 BOSTON MA 02110-2804

34M1/0722

STINSON, F

3405

EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

07/22/97
 DATE MAILED:

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

B000373

Interview Summary	Application No. 08/378,849	Applicant(s) BRAUN
	Examiner Frankie L. Stinson	Group Art Unit 3405

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Frankie L. Stinson (3) _____

(2) Ms. P. Crystal (4) _____

Date of Interview Jul 18, 1997

Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Personal (copy is given to ☐ applicant ☐ applicant's representative).

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No. If yes, brief description:

Agreement ☒ was reached. ☐ was not reached.

Claim(s) discussed: 1 and 16

Identification of prior art discussed:
Hilker and Mekiney

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:
It was noted that claim 1 would be amended to include the shape of the cradle (concave) and the drainage port at the base of the concave cradle and to include the bracket. It was also noted that the claim, as proposedly amended, appears to define patentable subject matter. Allowance will be held in abeyance pending an updated search.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

1. ☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary, A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a response to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. ☐ Since the Examiner's interview summary above (including any attachments) reflects a complete response to each of the objections, rejections and requirements that may be present in the last Office action, and since the claims are now allowable, this completed form is considered to fulfill the response requirements of the last Office action. Applicant is not relieved from providing a separate record of the interview unless box 1 above is also checked.

FRANKIE L. STINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3405

Examiner Note: You must sign and stamp this form unless it is an attachment to a signed Office action.



340
 COTES, AND
 BOX AF

AFB

PATENT
 ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 02894/284001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gebhard Braun Art Unit: 3405
 Serial No.: 08/376,849 Examiner: Stinson
 Filed : January 23, 1995
 Title : CLEANING DEVICE FOR THE SHAVING HEAD OF A DRY SHAVER

Box: AF

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE

In response to the Examiner's action mailed May 15, 1997, please amend the application as follows.

In the claims:

Cancel claims 7 and 24.

1. (Thrice amended) A cleaning device comprising:

a cradle structure including a concave surface for
 [adapted to receive] receiving a shaving head of a shaving
 apparatus,

a cleaning fluid container, said cradle structure
including an outlet port connecting the cradle structure with the
cleaning fluid container, said outlet port allowing hair to drain
from said cradle structure, and

a feed device for feeding cleaning fluid from said
 cleaning fluid container to said cradle structure, said cradle
 structure being arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning
 fluid in said cleaning fluid container during the feeding of said
 cleaning fluid to said cradle structure.

Date of Deposit Aug 14, 1997
 I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.86 that this correspondence is being
 deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail
 with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to
 the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Rita A. B/BL

09/08/1997 MVLARI 00000057 08376849
 01 FC:102 400.00 OP

1000375

9. (Twice amended) [A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising] A cleaning device comprising:
a cradle structure adapted to receive a shaving head of a shaving apparatus,
a cleaning fluid container,
a feed device for feeding cleaning fluid from said cleaning fluid container to said cradle structure, said cradle structure being arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning fluid in said cleaning fluid container during the feeding of said cleaning fluid to said cradle structure, and
an electric arrangement for temporarily operating the shaving head of the shaving apparatus and the feed device.

11. (Twice amended) [A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising] A cleaning device comprising:
a cradle structure adapted to receive a shaving head of a shaving apparatus,
a cleaning fluid container,
a feed device for feeding cleaning fluid from said cleaning fluid container to said cradle structure, said cradle structure being arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning fluid in said cleaning fluid container during the feeding of said cleaning fluid to said cradle structure, and
a drying device.

14. (Twice amended) [A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the] A cleaning device comprising:

a cradle structure adapted to receive a shaving head of a shaving apparatus, said cradle structure [is] being permanently open to atmosphere,

a cleaning fluid container, and

a feed device for feeding cleaning fluid from said cleaning fluid container to said cradle structure, said cradle structure being arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning fluid in said cleaning fluid container during the feeding of said cleaning fluid to said cradle structure.

2
enc)
Claim 9, line 2, replace "claim 23" with --claim 1--.

Claim 10, line 2, replace "claim 24" with --claim

23--.

23
15
12. (Twice amended) (A device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising] A cleaning device comprising:

a cradle structure adapted to receive a shaving head of a shaving apparatus,

a cleaning fluid container,

a feed device for feeding cleaning fluid from said cleaning fluid container to said cradle structure, said cradle structure being arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning fluid in said cleaning fluid container during the feeding of said cleaning fluid to said cradle structure,

a collecting dish and a filter, said collecting dish being positioned underneath the cradle structure and including an outlet opening connecting with the filter, and

C3
a hose member permeable to the cleaning fluid provided
between the collecting dish and the filter.

Claim 13, line 2, replace "claims 10 or 12" with --
claim 12--.

C4
14. (Twice amended) [A device as claimed in claim 11,
wherein the] A cleaning device comprising:
a cradle structure adapted to receive a shaving head of
a shaving apparatus,
a cleaning fluid container,
a feed device for feeding cleaning fluid from said
cleaning fluid container to said cradle structure, said cradle
structure being arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning
fluid in said cleaning fluid container during the feeding of said
cleaning fluid to said cradle structure, said feed device
[includes] including a suction side and a delivery side, and
a collecting dish and a filter, said collecting dish
being positioned underneath the cradle structure and including an
outlet opening connecting with the filter, the outlet opening
being connected to the suction side of the feed device, the
filter being in communication with the delivery side of the feed
device.

15. (Twice amended) A device as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a filter connected to an inlet of the cradle

structure[, and an outlet port provided in the cradle structure connected to the cleaning fluid container].

¹⁸
16. (Twice amended) [A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising] A cleaning device comprising:

a cradle structure adapted to receive a shaving head of a shaving apparatus,

a cleaning fluid container,

a feed device for feeding cleaning fluid from said cleaning fluid container to said cradle structure, said cradle structure being arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning fluid in said cleaning fluid container during the feeding of said cleaning fluid to said cradle structure, and

⁴
₂₋₄₁ a bracket for insertion of the shaving apparatus therein[, and a switch for interlocking the shaving apparatus to the bracket].

Claims ~~17~~, ~~19~~ and ~~22~~, line 2, replace "claim 16" with --claim 28--.

Please add the following new claims.

¹⁹
~~20~~. A device as claimed in claim ~~16~~, further comprising a switch for interlocking the shaving apparatus to the bracket.--

²⁷
~~29~~. A cleaning device comprising:

a cradle structure adapted to receive a shaving head of a shaving apparatus,

a cleaning fluid container, said cradle structure including an outlet port connecting the cradle structure with the cleaning fluid container,

a feed device for feeding cleaning fluid from said cleaning fluid container to said cradle structure, said cradle structure being arranged above a fluid level of the cleaning fluid in said cleaning fluid container during the feeding of said cleaning fluid to said cradle structure, and

a hose member permeable to the cleaning fluid provided between the overflow device and the cleaning fluid container, said hose member being immersed in the cleaning fluid held in the cleaning fluid container.---

REMARKS

5-
over
Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on July 18, 1997.

In the Examiner's action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-6, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 16-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. We have rewritten claims 2, 3, 8, 12 and 14 in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, we submit that claims 2, 3, 8, 12 and 14, and dependent claims 4, 5 and 13, are in condition for allowance. We have also rewritten claim 13 in independent form, through its alternative dependency from claim

10, as new claim 29. Therefore, we submit that claim 29 is in condition for allowance.

During the telephone interview of July 18, 1997, the Examiner indicated that claim 16 including the limitation of a bracket would remain allowable if amended to delete the recitation of the switch. We have therefore rewritten claim 16 in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1, and deleted the reference to the switch. New claim 28, dependent on claim 16, recites the switch. We submit that claim 16, and claims 17-22, 27 and 28 dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15 and 23-27 as obvious over either McKiney or Hilliker.

We wish to note that claim 27 depends from claim 19, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Therefore, we submit that claim 27 is allowable.

Regarding the remaining rejected claims, the Examiner further indicated during the telephone interview that amending claim 1 to include the limitations that the cradle structure has a concave surface for receiving the shaving head and an outlet port allowing hair to drain from the cradle structure would place claim 1 in condition for allowance. Therefore, we have added these limitations to claim 1, and we submit that neither McKiney nor Hilliker teach or suggest such a structure. Rather, instead of an outlet port, Hilliker relies on the floating out of garbage or scraps over the lip of catch basin 6 to drain debris from the catch basin (see, for example, column 4, lines 9-10), and

McKinney's merely teaches a rectangular tank 12, not a cradle structure having a concave surface. Therefore, we submit that claim 1, and claims 9-11, 15, 23, 25 and 26 dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

We submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

We have not received an initialed copy of the PTOL form that accompanied an information disclosure statement filed April 8, 1997. We respectfully request that the Examiner initial and return the form as soon as possible.

Filed herewith is a check in payment of the excess claims fees required by the above amendments. Please charge any additional fees, or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

Aug. 14, 1997

Eric L. Prah
Reg. No. 32,590

Phyllis K. Prah Reg. No. 32,524

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804

Telephone: 617/542-5070
Facsimile: 617/542-8906
245969.B11